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cumpolar and equatorial results. The bisection correction is eliminated from the zenith determinations, made facing north and south alternately, for the same star.

Some of the B. J. declinations of zenith stars have undoubtedly large errors; the declinations of the *American Ephemeris* would reduce the observed latitude by $0''.23$ for sixteen of these stars. The normal latitude $\phi_0 = 37^\circ\ 20'\ 25''.6$ — corresponding to the epoch 1895.1 may be adopted as the best value furnished by the series of observations made in this period.

R. H. TUCKER.

THE INTERNATIONAL ASTROGRAPHIC CHARTS.

"The fourth *réunion* of the Comité Permanent was held in Paris in May. The reports furnished by the Directors of the co-operating observatories show that satisfactory progress has been made in two-thirds of them. Owing to political or financial difficulties, the work has not yet begun at Santiago de Chili, La Plata, and Rio Janeiro, and is seriously hampered at several other observatories.

The following table shows how far the photo-mapping has advanced in the different zones:—

	Zone.	No. of Fields Assigned.	No. taken for		
			Cat.	Chart.	
Greenwich	+90 to +65	1149	728	472	213 plates measured; 102 plate constants determined.
Rome	+64 to +55	1040	280	100	—
Catania	+54 to +47	1008	21	None.	—
Helsingfors	+46 to +40	1008	1008	A few.	160 plates measured and partly reduced.
Potsdam	+39 to +32	1232	500	A few.	35,000 stars measured.
Oxford	+31 to +25	1180	800	None.	40,000 stars measured on 160 plates.
Paris	+24 to +18	1260	1155	Not stated.	318 plates measured, 60 reduced.
Bordeaux	+17 to +11	1260	300	60	Measures to be begun soon.
Toulouse	+10 to + 5	1080	150	350	70 plates measured.
Algiers	+ 4 to — 2	1260	1000	64	168 plates measured with 32,000 stars.
San Fernando	— 3 to — 9	1260	1260	About 400.	50 plates measured once and 25 twice.
Tacubaya	—10 to —16	1260	529	Not stated.	Measuring to begin soon.
Santiago de Chili	—17 to —23	1260	—	—	—
La Plata	—24 to —31	1360	—	—	—
Rio Janeiro	—32 to —40	1376	—	—	—
Cape of Good Hope	—41 to —51	1512	1512	Nearly half.	30 plates measured.
Sydney	—52 to —64	1400	1393	1112	—
Melbourne	—65 to —90	1149	703	A few.	—

Examination of this table shows that (omitting altogether the three South American observatories which have not yet commenced) the taking of the catalogue plates is generally well advanced, and that some progress has been made with the chart-plates. The measurement and reduction of the catalogue plates have been begun by more than half the observatories, and considerable progress has been made by six or seven of them.

The Congress first turned its attention to the degree of accuracy which it was desirable to obtain in the measurement of the photographs. It was decided that the probable error of the measured co-ordinates ought not to exceed $\pm 0''.20$.

The choice of the reference-stars and the methods of measurement and reduction were left to the discretion of the Directors of the co-operating observatories. It was resolved that the measured rectilinear co-ordinates should be published as soon as possible, along with the necessary data for obtaining the Right Ascension and Declination of the stars when required. With regard to the magnitudes, the Congress laid down no conditions except that the methods adopted for their determination should be capable of precise definition, so that the scales employed at different observatories might be readily comparable. For the Chart, it was decided that in the odd zones a triple exposure of 30^m should be given.

Captain Abney undertook to supply the different observatories with scales which should be printed on the plates at the same time as the *rêseau*, and supply a measure of the sensibility of the plates for light of different intensities. It was also resolved that two positives of each chart-plate should be made on glass, and that one of them should be placed in the *Bureau National des Poids et Mesures.*"—From *Monthly Notices* R. A. S., Vol. LVII, p. 298.

WEATHER AT MT. HAMILTON IN THE WINTER OF 1896–97.

The following data are taken from the meteorological records for the respective months, the record for March being included to date:—

	1896.		1897.			
	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Total.
Cloudy nights	14	17	10	18	15	74
Rainfall (including melted snow), in inches .	5.8	4.9	3.5	5.9	0.6	20.7
Snowfall, in inches	1	3	2	17	30	53

During the first three of these months, the clear nights, and occasionally part of a night marked "cloudy," were suitable for